

Clerk Errs in Lining Up Field

BY PAUL ZIMMERMAN

Sports Editor

Pell-Mel Patton, Southern California's sprint swiftie, re-established his superiority over the greatest dash man of the world at Memorial Coliseum here last night at the eighth annual Coliseum Relays, but an error by a clerk of the course deprived him of any chance for a record.

After the Trojan speedster had thrilled the record crowd of 59,681 with a 5-foot victory over Lloyd LaBeach, the Panamanian, and seven others in the international field, the red-faced officials came up with the announcement that the course was, not 100 meters as had been planned. In fact, it wasn't even 100 yards.

Short Course

It was, in fact, only 99 yards 5 inches and the time was 9.4s.

Charlie Parker of Texas and Don Anderson of California tied for third, a yard back of LaBeach. Lt. Bill Carter of the Army Air Force Training Squad was fifth, Barney Ewell, formerly of Penn State, sixth, and John Treavor of Australia seventh.

Mike Portonova, clerk of the course, whose responsibility it was to see that the sprinters started from the 100-meter mark, admitted the error was his. The starting blocks were placed at the 100-yard instead of 100-meter marks. It was detected only when the startled timers looked at their watches, shook their heads and decided something was radically wrong.

Moves Away

Starter Bob Weaver got the field away in unison, but in three strides Patton was in front. He improved his edge to two yards but at the halfway point LaBeach moved in to challenge. He never caught up with the fast moving Trojan. Patton shifted into high gear there and was running away from his field when he breasted the tape.

LaBeach stated afterward that he was left at the mark by a "fast gun" and said he doubted that he would run again until he reached the Middle West. Astute track experts who saw the start at close range, including Tug Wilson, himself a former track star and commissioner of the Big Nine Conference, contested this. They said the start was perfect.

Single Record

The misfortune in the proposed 100 meters and a chill evening cut down on the anticipated record breaking. Only one mark was set and that came in the first open race of the evening, the 110-meter high hurdles.

In this, Craig Dixon, brilliant UCLA timber topper, breasted the tape in front of Bill Porter of Northwestern by two feet in an upset victory in 14.1s. The time was 2/10ths of a second faster than the Coliseum record set here in 1936 by Roy Staley of Southern California.

The crowd eclipsed by more

Mel Patton

Beats LaBeach

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than four thousand any previous track and field gathering in the United States. The largest previous crowd was 55,000 here in the 1932 Olympic Games.

Best Race

The way things turned out, the 1500-meter open race was the best of the evening. Gerald Karver of Penn State won this, as expected, but only after a terrific fight with Roland Sink of Southern California. Sink ran shoulder to shoulder with Karver until 50 yards from the tape. Here the Nittany Lion gathered himself and forged ahead by two strides, to win in the good time of 3m. 53.5s. Bob Rehberg of the Illinois A.C. was third.

Little Competition

Competition for Texas in the 400-meter sprint relay failed to materialize when Coach Dean Cromwell withdrew Patton, saving him for the ill-fated 100-meters. As it was, Parker, great Longhorn anchor man, beat Cliff Bourland of the Los Angeles Athletic Club by less than a step with Carter of the Army Air Force Training Squad bringing his team in third. The time of 40.6s. was six-tenths off the Coliseum record and far short of the world's mark of 39.8s.

Ohio State's great two-mile relay combination won the 3200-meters, anchored by Malvin Whitfield, a former Jefferson (Los Angeles) High School star, took this race handily and Texas A. and M. captured the 1600-meter relay from a fast field in 3m. 11s.

Porter Triumphs

After losing to Dixon in the 110-meter highs Northwestern's Porter came back to outspeed Dixon in the 200-meters low barriers in 23s. flat.

Biggest upset in the field events came when Bill Bayless of Southern California bested a star-studded field in the shot-put, pitching the 16-pound ball 53ft. 8in. Another upset came in the high jump when George Stanich, UCLA leaper, tied for first after pitching nine innings of baseball for the Bruins against Santa Clara in the afternoon. He tied at 6ft. 5in., with a junior college star, Willie Dancer of Mt. San Antonio JC.

OPEN EVENTS

110-meter high hurdles—Dixon (UCLA), Porter (Northwestern), Anderson (AAPTIS), Duff (Ohio State), Krenz (Stanford). Time, 14.1s. New Coliseum record. Old record 14.1s. by Roy Staley, SC, 1935.

3200-meter relay—Ohio State (Owen, Clifford, Washington and Whitfield); LAAC, UCLA, SC. (Only teams entered.) Time 7m. 31.6s.

400-meter relay—Texas (Samuels, Robertson, Lawler, Parker); LAAC, Army Air Force Training Squad, UCLA, Southern California, California. Time, 40.6s.

Shot-put—Bariss (SC), 53ft. 8in.; Thompson (LAAC), 52ft. 10in.; Jim Delaney (Olympic Club), 52ft. 7 1/2in.; Sawyer (UCLA), 52ft. 7 1/2in.; Wager (Illinois), 51ft. 10in.; Chandler (Stanford), 50ft. 9in.

400-meter dash—McKenley (Jamaica); Bourland (LAAC), DeLoach (SC), Travis (Pepperdine), Lawson (UCLA Fresh). Time, 44.6s.

100-yard dash—Patina, SC; LaBeach, Bitters, Parker, Texas, and Anderson, Cal., tied for third; Carter, AAPTIS; Ewell, unattached; Treaker, Australia. Time, 1.14s.

Broad jump—Steele (San Diego State), 28ft.; Wright (Warner), 26ft. 11 1/2in.; Barkadale (Bitters), 26ft. 3 1/2in.; Robinson (Texas), 25ft. 11 1/2in.

200-meter hurdles—Parker (Northwestern), Dixon (UCLA), Frazier (SC), Lawrence (LAAC), Wright (Warner), Hall (Texas A&M). Time, 23s.

High jump—Tie between Stanich (UCLA) and Dancer (Mt. San Antonio JC), 6ft. 5in. Tie for third between Barkadale (Bitters), Edlemann (Illinois) and Coffman (Ohio), 6ft. 4in.

Javelin throw—Beymour (LAAC), 227ft. 9in.; Pickens (San Bernardino SC), 190ft. 2 1/2in.; Reid (Stanford), 185ft.; Peoples (LAAC), 180ft., 2in.

1500-meter run—Karver (Penn State), Sink (SC), Rehberg (Illinois AC), Mack (unattached), Dietz (Michigan State), Thompson (Texas). Time 3m. 53.5s.

Pole vault—Moxton (ex-New Hampshire), 142t. 8in.; Richards (Ill AC), 142t. 7in.; three-way tie for third between Montgomery (SC), Meadows (unattached), Smith (Olympic Club), 142t.; Hart (SC), 137t. 6in.

College class medley relay—Compton (Bastrop, Curry, Davis, Cross); Pepperdine, LAAC, SC Fresh, Riverside College, 3m. 31.3s.

1600-meter relay—Texas A&M (Carson, Bitterbeck, Halbrook, Harndorn), LAAC, Ohio State, SC, 3m. 11s.